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CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Editor

DELAYED BIRTH REGISTRATION

The war emergency has created an unprecedented demand for certified copies of birth records. This demand has brought to light the fact that a very large proportion of births that occurred in California 20 and more years ago were not registered at the time that the event occurred. Under the present law, it is impossible to obtain a birth certificate if such certificate was not filed within one year after the birth, without establishing fact of birth in a superior court. The expense attached to this procedure has prohibited many individuals from obtaining birth certificates.

So many individuals find themselves in this predicament that the California Legislature has taken active steps to remedy the situation. A great many bills to cover the subject have been introduced in the Legislature now in session. Some of them demand the submission of documentary evidence as well as affidavits by attending physician, parent or other individual, while others do not require the submission of essential documentary evidence.

One measure provides that delayed registration may be effected for any births that occurred prior to 1915, if the delayed certificate is accompanied by an affidavit of the attending physician or midwife or by affidavits of the father or mother of the child, or if neither father or mother is living or accessible, an affidavit of the nearest of kin or guardian or some person having direct knowledge of the facts.

Another bill provides for the submission of affidavits by attending physician or either parent and the submission of one item of documentary proof which should be at least five years old. If affidavits are

not available, another piece of documentary evidence at least five years old and satisfactory to the State Registrar shall be submitted.

Measures that have the endorsement of large groups of local registrars, county recorders and other health departments are A. B. 10, introduced by a group of 42 Assemblymen and S. B. 7, introduced by Senators Judah and Fletcher. There is little difference in the two measures. The bill introduced by Senators Judah and Fletcher provides for the submission of documentary evidence that would constitute definite proof that the birth occurred, as well as the submission of affidavits. This measure has been given careful consideration by all interested individuals and organizations and for the benefit of local health officers and registrars throughout the State, it is reproduced herewith.

An act to add Chapter 8.5 (comprising Sections 10615 to 10622 inclusive) to Division 9 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to the registration of previously unregistered births, marriages and deaths, declaring the urgency hereof, to take effect immediately.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 8.5, comprising Sections 10615 to 10622, is hereby added to Division 9 of the Health and Safety Code, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8.5. REGISTRATION OF PREVIOUSLY UNREGISTERED BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

10615. Any person seeking to establish of record the fact of any birth, marriage or death in this State

may do so by filing an application for the original registration of such birth or death with the State Registrar, local registrar of the district, or the county recorder of the county in which the birth or death occurred, or in the case of marriage, with the State Registrar or the county recorder of the county in which the marriage occurred. The application shall be on forms prescribed and furnished by the State Registrar and shall contain such information as may be necessary to enable the State Registrar to determine whether such birth, marriage or death did in fact occur and shall show the place and the date of such birth, marriage or death and in the case of birth the parentage of the child.

10616. The application for birth record shall be accompanied by:

(a) An affidavit of the physician, midwife or other person who attended at the birth; or

(b) An affidavit of a parent of the person whose birth it is desired to register; or

(c) If neither parent is living or available, the affidavit of two other persons, either relatives or non-relatives, who have actual knowledge of the fact; and

(d) Such documentary evidence as the State department may require.

The application for marriage or death record shall be accompanied by such documentary evidence as the State department may require.

Upon the filing of any such application with a local registrar, or county recorder such officer shall immediately transmit it to the State Registrar, together with the filing fee hereafter in Section 10618 of this code provided.

10617. The State Registrar shall review the application and the documentary evidence accompanying it and if the evidence warrants shall file a delayed certificate of such birth, marriage or death. He shall transmit a copy of such delayed certificate to the local registrar of the district and the county recorder of the county in which such birth or death occurred, or to the county recorder of the county in which such marriage occurred, who shall index it and may place it in a book marked "Delayed Certificates of Birth" (or "Marriage" or "Death" as the case may be), except that if the birth or death occurred in a city and county he shall transmit a copy of the delayed certificate to the local registrar only.

10618. A fee of four dollars (\$4) shall be paid at the time of filing to the State Registrar, local registrar or county recorder for each application filed. The State Registrar shall retain three dollars (\$3) from each such fee, and shall transmit one dollar (\$1) to the local registrar or county recorder together with the copy of the delayed certificate.

10619. The money so received by any local registrar who is also county recorder or clerk or health officer of any city and whose salary is by law his sole compensation for his services, shall be by him paid into the county or city treasury as the case may be.

10620. Any person who makes or files or causes to be made or filed a false certificate or affidavit pursuant

to this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment not exceeding six months in the county jail, and is also liable to the State of California for a civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500). Such civil penalty may be recovered in an action filed by the Attorney General in any court of competent jurisdiction. Three-quarters of the sum representing a penalty so recovered shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the State General Fund and one-quarter into the treasury of the county or city in which the district is located in which the record of birth, marriage or death is filed or offered for filing.

10621. There is hereby created in the State Treasury the Delayed Registration of Vital Statistics Fund. All fees and penalties received by the State pursuant to this chapter, together with the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the General Fund in the State Treasury, are hereby appropriated to the Delayed Registration of Vital Statistics Fund, to be used by the department to defray expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this chapter. The Controller shall draw his warrant from time to time in favor of the department for the amounts expended under its direction, and the treasurer shall pay the warrants.

10622. From the sums available to it for carrying out the provisions of this chapter the Controller with the approval of the department shall transfer from the Delayed Registration of Vital Statistics Fund into the General Fund in the State Treasury the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) on July 1, 1945.

SEC. 2. This act is hereby declared to be an urgency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health and safety within the meaning of Section 1 of Article IV of the Constitution and shall therefore go into immediate effect. A statement of the facts constituting such necessity is as follows:

The existence of a state of war and the increased demand for vital statistics certificates for purposes connected with the armed services and employment in necessary war industries has made necessary the enactment of an expeditious, simple and inexpensive procedure of obtaining these certificates.

EXPOSURE TO LEAD DUST

The Bureau of Industrial Health, in cooperation with the insurance carrier for a paint manufacturer, has made studies of the exposure to lead dust of employees engaged in the manufacture of basic lead arsenate. Tests were made at breathing level in the nitric acid plant where the arsenate is prepared, at the mixing vats where the litharge and arsenate are mixed, at the grinding operations where the lead arsenate filter cake is pulverized and at the bagging, weighing and sealing operations. Samples are now being analyzed in the laboratory, upon completion of which data will be analyzed and advisable corrective measures recommended, if indicated.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FACT OF BIRTH

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature, now in session, that amends those sections of the Health and Safety Code that pertain to establishment of fact of birth. The measure would permit the filing of a petition with the county clerk for which a fee of \$3 would be required, \$1 of which would go to the law library fund of the county. Hearings would be held before a judge of a superior court where probate matters are customarily heard. Provision is made for filing of a certified copy of the order in the district in which the event occurred if it occurred in the State, and if it occurred outside the State, the order shall be filed with the registrar of the district or the county recorder of the county in which the petitioner resides. No documentary evidence or other proof of birth is specified in this measure, which would have the effect of enabling the petitioner to deal directly with the court through the county clerk.

Another measure would amend Section 2009 of the Code of Civil Procedure, setting forth the fact that an affidavit may be used in any proceeding to establish a record of birth, death or marriage. This gives the affidavit used for this purpose the same status as verification of a pleading or paper in a special proceeding, to prove the service of a summons, notice, or other paper in an action or special proceeding, to obtain a provisional remedy, the examination of a witness, or a stay or proceedings, as evidence in an uncontested probate proceeding, including a proceeding relating to the administration of the estate of a decedent, also a proceeding relating to the administration of the estate of a minor or incompetent person after a guardian has been appointed therein, or upon a motion, and in any other case expressly permitted by some other provision of the Code of Civil Procedure. This measure would provide for the establishment of fact of birth in court procedure upon submission of an affidavit without other documentary evidence.

HEALTH HAZARDS IN WAR INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

The Bureau of Industrial Health has engaged in cooperative efforts with the Industrial Division of the Ninth Service Command, U. S. Army, to assist in checking potential health hazards in various motor transport bases, in aircraft repair depots, and in arsenals. All of these plants employ civilians for industrial work, although the plants themselves are under Army jurisdiction. The reports of the studies will be transmitted to plant officials through regular Army channels.

REVISED LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES*Reportable Only:*

Anthrax
 Botulism—if commercial product notify State Department of Health at once.
 Coccidioidal Granuloma
 Dengue—keep patient in mosquito-free room.
 Epilepsy
 Food Poisoning
 Glanders—report by phone or telegraph.
 Jaundice—infectious or epidemic types.
 Malaria—keep patient in mosquito-free room.
 Pneumonia—specify type of pneumococcus if known.
 Relapsing Fever
 Rheumatic Fever
 Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
 Tetanus
 Trichinosis
 Tularemia
 Undulant Fever

Reportable and Subject to Isolation:

Epidemic diarrhea of the newborn (in institutions)
 Chickenpox
 Dysentery—Amoebic
 Dysentery—Bacillary—specify type if known.
 German Measles
 Influenza
 Measles
 Mumps
 Ophthalmia Neonatorum
 Psittacosis
 Rabies—in animals. Use special card.
 Rabies—in humans.
 Septic Sore Throat (in epidemic form).
 Trachoma
 Tuberculosis—use special card.
 Whooping Cough
 Syphilis—use special card.
 Gonorrhea—use special card.
 Chancroid—use special card.
 Lymphopathia Venereum—use special card.
 Granuloma—Inguinale—use special card.

*Reportable and Subject to Quarantine and**Placarding:*

Cholera—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.
 Diphtheria
 Encephalitis (Infectious)—specify type if known.

NOTE: This means all forms of acute encephalitis such as St. Louis type, equine type, and any other epidemic form occurring in California.

Leprosy
 Meningitis (due to the meningococcus).
 Paratyphoid Fever—specify type A or B.
 Plague—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.
 Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis
 Scarlet Fever

REVISED LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES—Continued

Smallpox
Typhoid Fever
Typhus Fever
Yellow Fever—report by telephone or telegraph to
State Department of Health.

MORBIDITY*

Complete Reports for Certain Diseases Recorded for Week
Ending January 16, 1943

Chickenpox

1397 cases from the following counties: Alameda 79, Butte 7, Colusa 2, Contra Costa 32, Fresno 59, Glenn 1, Inyo 7, Kern 30, Kings 14, Lassen 14, Los Angeles 269, Madera 22, Marin 14, Merced 13, Modoc 50, Monterey 38, Napa 47, Orange 64, Riverside 31, Sacramento 38, San Bernardino 9, San Diego 132, San Francisco 92, San Joaquin 153, San Luis Obispo 3, San Mateo 13, Santa Barbara 20, Santa Clara 20, Santa Cruz 1, Shasta 5, Solano 22, Sonoma 30, Sutter 22, Tulare 35, Ventura 3, Yolo 4, Yuba 2.

German Measles

214 cases from the following counties: Alameda 28, Inyo 1, Kings 1, Los Angeles 30, Modoc 92, Orange 4, Sacramento 2, San Diego 17, San Francisco 15, San Joaquin 9, San Luis Obispo 2, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara 6, Santa Cruz 4, Ventura 1.

Measles

228 cases from the following counties: Alameda 5, Butte 2, Calaveras 1, Contra Costa 2, Fresno 1, Humboldt 2, Kern 2, Kings 1, Los Angeles 45, Marin 3, Modoc 116, Monterey 1, Napa 3, Orange 3, San Bernardino 5, San Diego 4, San Francisco 12, San Joaquin 3, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo 4, Santa Clara 6, Santa Cruz 1, Shasta 1, Solano 2, Ventura 2.

Mumps

551 cases from the following counties: Alameda 16, Contra Costa 16, Del Norte 1, Fresno 33, Kern 14, Kings 10, Los Angeles 163, Merced 2, Modoc 17, Monterey 2, Napa 30, Orange 25, Riverside 9, Sacramento 14, San Bernardino 2, San Diego 37, San Francisco 47, San Joaquin 18, San Mateo 54, Santa Clara 32, Shasta 4, Solano 1, Sonoma 2, Ventura 2.

Scarlet Fever

191 cases from the following counties: Alameda 3, Contra Costa 1, Fresno 19, Kern 11, Kings 2, Lassen 9, Los Angeles 73, Madera 1, Marin 1, Merced 1, Monterey 1, Napa 2, Orange 10, Riverside 2, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 6, San Francisco 10, San Joaquin 2, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara 6, Shasta 2, Siskiyou 1, Solano 5, Tehama 2, Tulare 11, Ventura 1.

Whooping Cough

362 cases from the following counties: Alameda 19, Colusa 1, Fresno 2, Kern 13, Lassen 1, Los Angeles 187, Marin 3, Merced 1, Modoc 7, Monterey 7, Napa 7, Orange 19, Riverside 1, Sacramento 14, San Benito 4, San Diego 18, San Francisco 19, San Joaquin 5, San Mateo 1, Santa Clara 18, Shasta 2, Sutter 1, Ventura 5, Yolo 7.

Diphtheria

31 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Contra Costa 1, Fresno 1, Kern 1, Los Angeles 2, Mendocino 2, Napa 7, Riverside 2, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 1, San Joaquin 1, Solano 2, Tuolumne 1, Yolo 1, Yuba 1.

Epilepsy

36 cases from the following counties: Calaveras 3, Los Angeles 28, Orange 1, San Bernardino 3, San Francisco 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

8 cases from the following counties: Kings 1, Los Angeles 6, Sonoma 1.

Encephalitis (Infectious)

One case from Alameda County.

Food Poisoning

6 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 1, San Joaquin 5.

Influenza (Epidemic)

48 cases reported in the State.

Jaundice (Infectious)

One case from Sutter County.

Meningitis (Meningococcic)

13 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Fresno 1, Los Angeles 2, Orange 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 5.

*Data regarding the other reportable diseases not listed herein, may be obtained upon request.

Pneumonia (Infectious)

80 cases reported in the State.

Poliomyelitis (Acute Anterior)

7 cases from the following counties: Fresno 3, Los Angeles 2, Madera 1, San Bernardino 1.

Rabies (Animal)

6 cases from the following counties: Kings 1, Los Angeles 5.

Rheumatic Fever (Acute)

10 cases from the following counties: Contra Costa 1, Glenn 1, Inyo 1, Los Angeles 3, San Bernardino 4.

Tetanus

One case from Los Angeles County.

Trichinosis

2 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 1, Napa 1.

Typhoid Fever

One case from Inyo County.

Undulant Fever

4 cases from the following counties: Modoc 1, San Bernardino 1, Tulare 1, Ventura 1.

Gonorrhoea

175 cases reported in the State.

Syphilis

422 cases reported in the State.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

A manual upon women in industry is now being prepared for plant managers by the Bureau of Industrial Health. Introductory chapters will discuss women on the production line, including employment figures and types of jobs in which women can be employed. Other chapters will cover problems in the working environment; medical, nursing and dental services; fatigue; nutrition; mental hygiene; absenteeism; social problems affecting health; available services in industrial hygiene and suggested references.

These are the times that try men's souls; the Summer Soldier and the Sunshine Patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country, but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of Man and Woman.—Thomas Paine.

We owe it to ourselves to try to understand what is going on in the world and to prepare to carry on into the future the greatest values which the human race has found.—Dr. Ada L. Comstock.

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